Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 MC-02

ACDA-19 MBFR-03 RSR-01 /115 W

R 031707 Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1505
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USNATO

CONFIDENTIAL PARIS 18279

E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PARM, FR

SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER GALLEY'S MEETINGS WITH BRITISH

COUNTERPART

- 1. UK EMBOFF TOLD EMBOFFS JUNE 29 THAT DEFENSE MINISTER GALLEY'S MID- JUNE VISIT TO LONDON STRUCK UK OFFICIALS AS BEING ESSENTIALLY AN EXPLORATORY MISSION DESIGNED TO TAKE THE MEASURE OF UK DEFENSE MINISTER LORD CARRINGTON. UK EMBOFF SAID VISIT WITNESSED NO NEW INITIATIVES ON PART OF FRENCH WITH GALLEY STICKING TO TRADITIONAL NEGATIVE FRENCH ATTITUDES ON SUCH ITEMS AS THE EURO GROUP.
- 2. UK OFFICIALS HAVE APPRAISED GALLEY AS BEING MORE BUSINESS-LIKE AND INTERESTED IN SPECIFIC TECHNICAL PROJECTS THAN HIS PREDECESSOR MICHEL DEBRE. UK EMBOFF NOTED IN PARTICULAR THAT GALLEY APPEARED TO WANT TO AVOID BROAD POLITICAL PROBLEMS.
- 3. UK EMBOFF VOLUNTEERED THAT WHILE GALLEY VISIT GAVE NO HINT OF ANY CHANGE IN FRENCH DEFENSE POLICY, BRITISH EMBASSY HERE HAS SEEN SEVERAL SIGNS, INCLUDING JOBERT'S JUNE 19 SPEECH, CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT FRENCH ARE BEGINNING TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT BROAD DEFENSE POLICY, INCLUDING POSSIBLE SHOWING GREATER INTEREST IN EUROPEAN DEFENSE MEASURES. BRITS ARE NOT SURE HOW FRENCH MIGHT SQUARE ANY SUCH INTEREST WITH CONTINUED FRENCH OPPOSITION TO EURO GROUP WHICH OTHER EC MEMBERS, (MINUS IRELAND), PREFER AS FOUNDATION FOR ANY EUROPEAN DEFENSE EFFORT. IRWIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: n/a Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 03 JUL 1973 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS18279

Document Number: 1973PARIS18279 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: n/a Film Number: n/a From: PARIS

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730763/aaaajujp.tel Line Count: 73

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: garlanwa

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 31 JUL 2001

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Jul-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <10-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN

Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980305
Subject: DEFENSE MINISTER GALLEY' S MEETINGS WITH BRITISH COUNTERPART

TAGS: PARM, FR, UK To: STATE INFO BONN LONDON

ROME **USNATO**

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005